WOLVERINE

MANIFEST DESTINY

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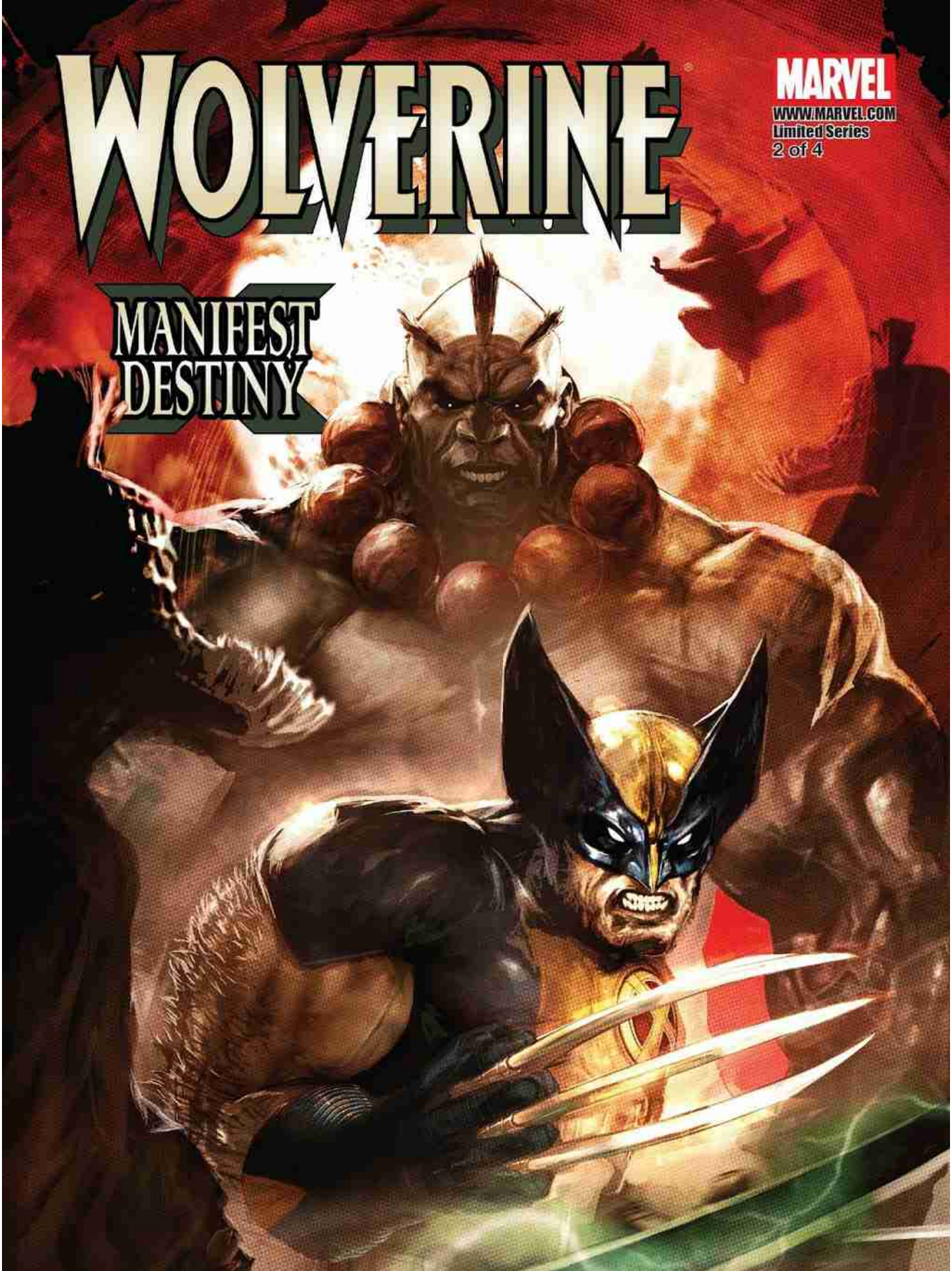

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WOLVERINE: MANIFEST DESTINY

The mutant Wolverine has spent a century fighting those who would manipulate him for his unique powers—razor-sharp claws, heightened senses, and a healing factor capable of miracles. After repeated brainwashing, torture, and reprogramming, Wolverine's past was as much a mystery to him as to anyone. Now those memories have returned...

The X-Men have moved to San Francisco and Wolverine's first order of business is to settle an old debt in Chinatown. Seems that fifty years ago, Logan got caught up in something real nasty—he shattered the Black Dragon tong and, after committing some sort of betrayal, was ordered never to return, under penalty of death.

So it comes as no surprise that within minutes of his arrival, master swordsman Lo Jun recognizes Logan and attacks, stabbing Logan in the throat. But before Lo Jun can do any permanent damage, gunshots tear through the old man. Gunshots fired by the Black Dragon herself—a woman who claims to be Logan's ex-girlfriend...

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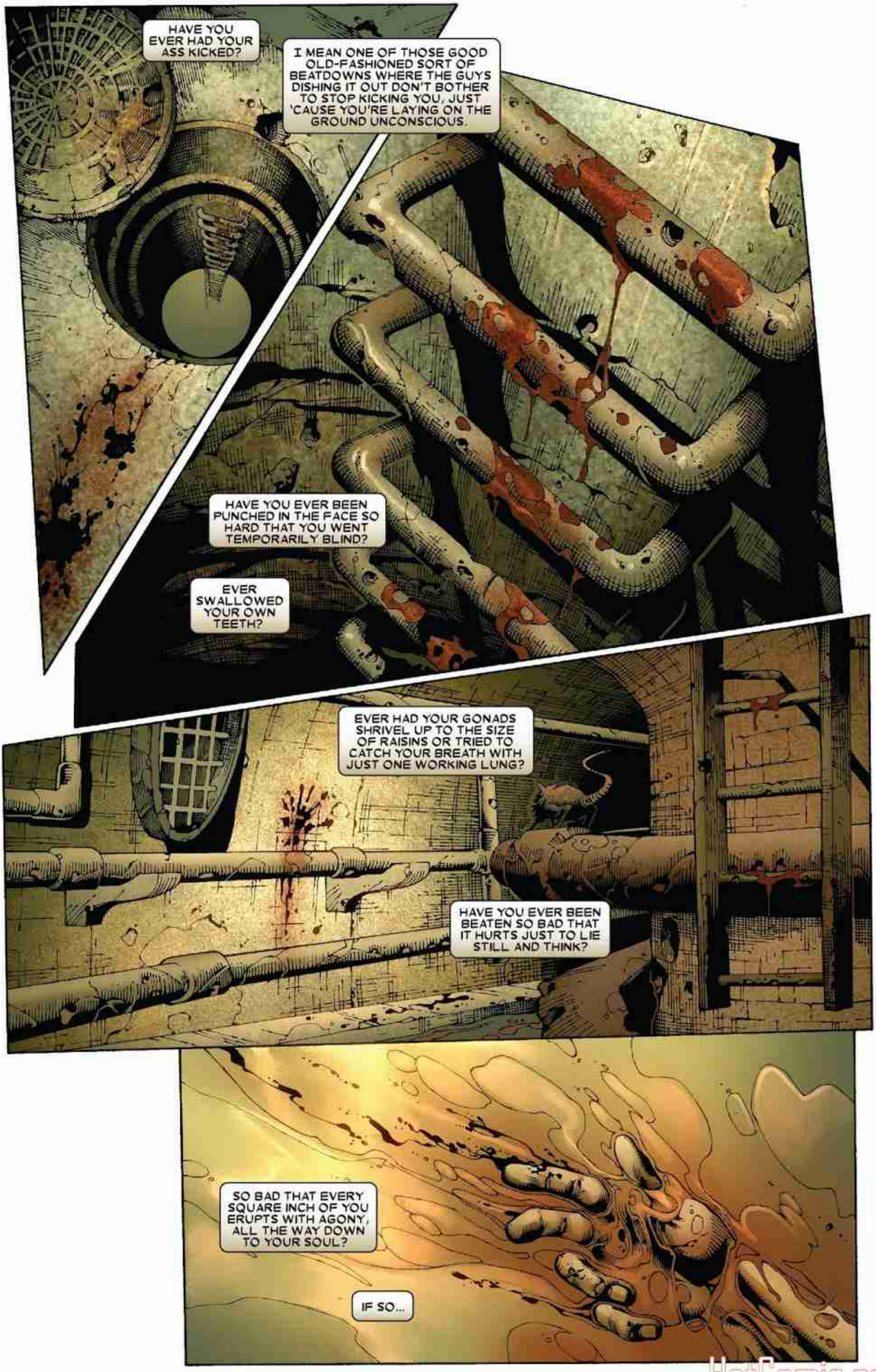
HAVE YOU EVER HAD YOUR ASS KICKED?
I MEAN ONE OF THOSE GOOD OLD-FASHIONED SORT OF BEATDOWNS WHERE THE GUYS DISHING IT OUT DON'T BOTHER TO STOP KICKING YOU, JUST 'CAUSE YOU'RE LAYING ON THE GROUND UNCONSCIOUS.
HAVE YOU EVER BEEN PUNCHED IN THE FACE SO HARD THAT YOU WENT TEMPORARILY BLIND?
EVER SWALLOWED YOUR OWN TEETH?
EVER HAD YOUR GONADS SHRIVEL UP TO THE SIZE OF RAISINS OR TRIED TO CATCH YOUR BREATH WITH JUST ONE WORKING LUNG?
HAVE YOU EVER BEEN BEATEN SO BAD THAT IT HURTS JUST TO LIE STILL AND THINK?
SO BAD THAT EVERY SQUARE INCH OF YOU ERUPTS WITH AGONY, ALL THE WAY DOWN TO YOUR SOUL?
IF SO...
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THEN MAYBE YOU CAN APPRECIATE THE KIND OF DAY I'M HAVING.
WOLVERINE
MANIFEST DESTINY
PART TWO
BLACK DRAGON DEATH SQUAD
TO THE EDGE OF PANIC

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I'M STARTING TO THINK IT WAS MAYBE A BAD IDEA TO COME BACK TO CHINATOWN.
BUT WHO KNEW I'D RUN INTO MY EX-GIRLFRIEND?
AND THAT SHE'D STILL HOLD SOMETHING OF A GRUDGE.
I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR THIS MOMENT FOR 50 YEARS, LOGAN, BUT I NEVER REALLY THOUGHT IT WOULD HAPPEN.
I NEVER THOUGHT YOU'D ACTUALLY BE *STUPID* ENOUGH TO COME BACK HERE.

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LIN, WAIT, LET'S TA--
LIN? LIN IS DEAD, LOVER. YOU KILLED HER A LONG TIME AGO.
I'M THE BLACK DRAGON NOW.
QUEEN OF THE TRIADS, EMPRESS OF THE CHINATOWN UNDERWORLD.
AND THESE BOYS HERE ARE A LITTLE SOMETHING I LIKE TO CALL MY *BLACK DRAGON DEATH SQUAD.*
I'VE BEEN TELLING THEM ABOUT YOU FOR YEARS, AND I'D SAY THEY'RE RATHER ANXIOUS TO MAKE YOUR ACQUAINTANCE.
AND BY "*MAKE YOUR ACQUAINTANCE,*" I MEAN BEAT YOU TO A BLOODY, UNRECOGNIZABLE PULP.
LIN, I AIN'T LOOKING FOR TROUBLE.
THEN YOU NEVER SHOULD HAVE COME BACK HERE, YOU BASTARD!
HAVE AT IT NOW, BOYS.
MAKE THIS FOOL REGRET HE WAS EVER BORN.
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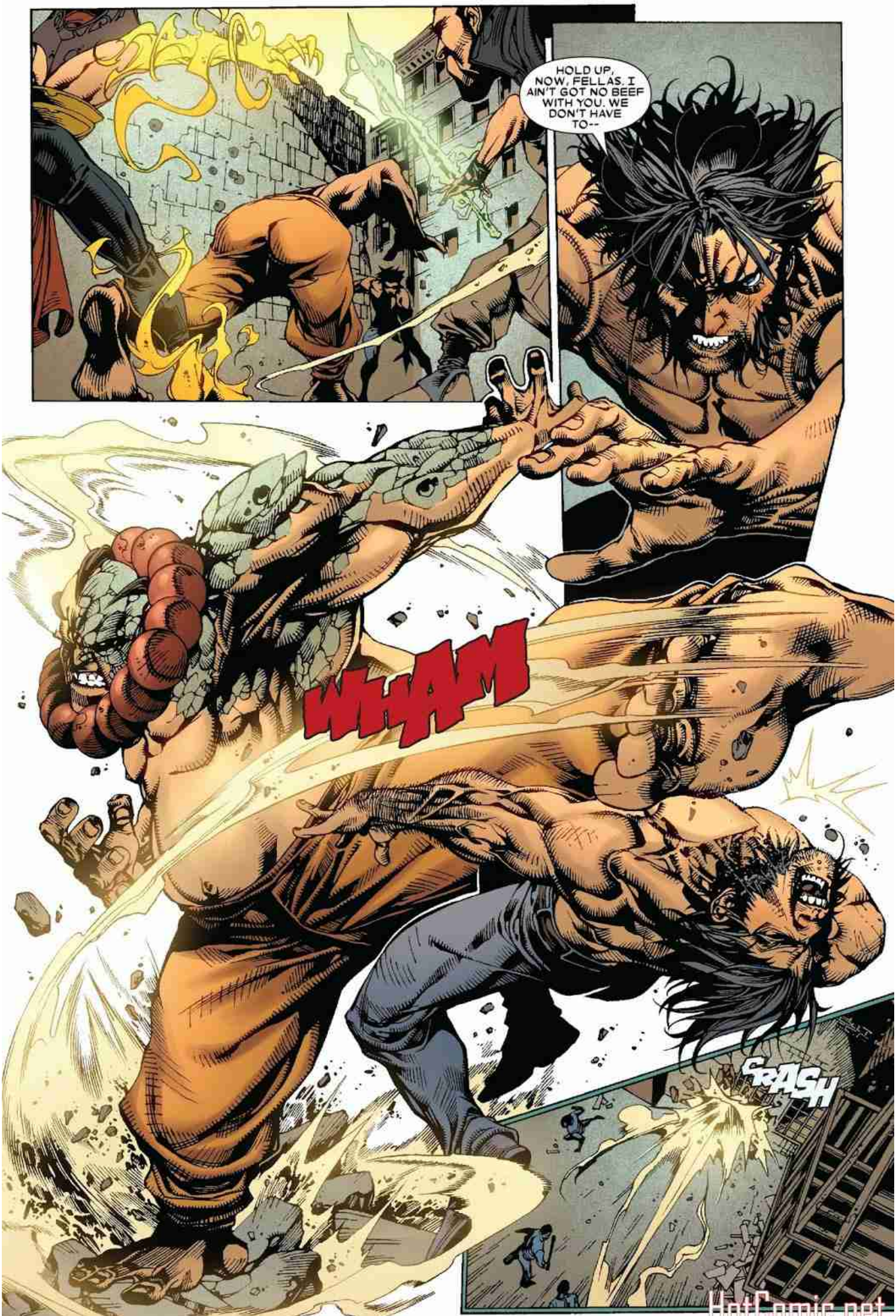

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OUCH. THAT WAS LIKE GETTING HIT BY THE THING.
IF THE THING WAS A NINTH-DEGREE BLACK BELT AND COULD KICK YOU IN THE FACE.
ROCK OF THE BUDDHA
GGRRRRRRRR
LET'S SEE IF HIS HIDE'S AS TOUGH AS OLD BEN GRIMM'S.
SNIKT
SNIKT
POKE
WHAT THE...
HSSSSSSS

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OKAY. I MAY ACTUALLY BE IN SOME TROUBLE HERE.
GO AHEAD, SWEETHEART. KARATE CHOP ME ALL YA WANT. YOU BOYS AIN'T GOT NOTHING MY HEALING FACTOR CAN'T HANDLE.
ZZUUUT
ARGH!!

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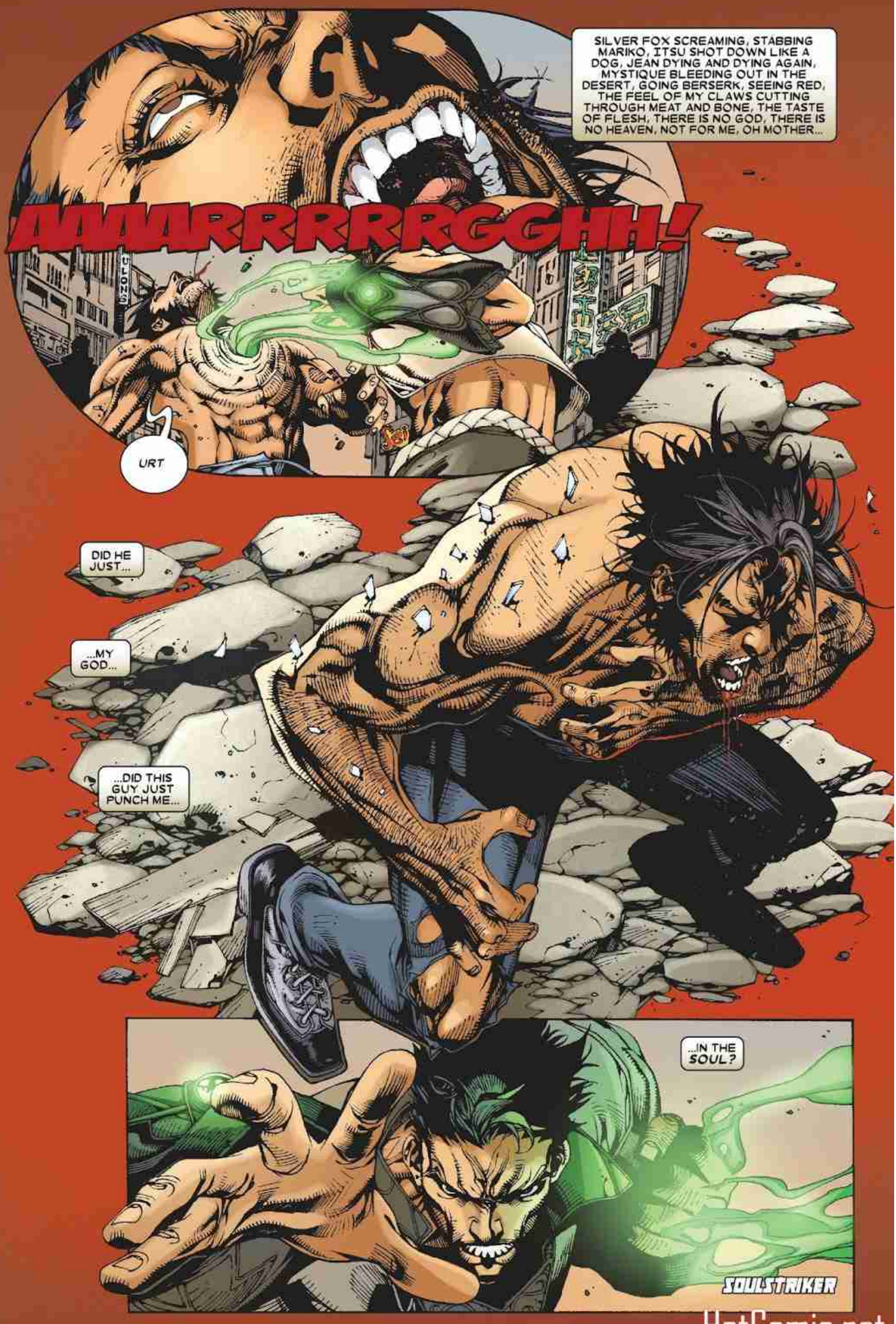
SILVER FOX SCREAMING, STABBING MARIKO, ITSU SHOT DOWN LIKE A DOG, JEAN DYING AND DYING AGAIN, MYSTIQUE BLEEDING OUT IN THE DESERT, GOING BERSERK, SEEING RED, THE FEEL OF MY CLAWS CUTTING THROUGH MEAT AND BONE, THE TASTE OF FLESH, THERE IS NO GOD, THERE IS NO HEAVEN, NOT FOR ME, OH MOTHER...
AWWRRRRRGGHH!
URT
DID HE JUST...
...MY GOD...
...DID THIS GUY JUST PUNCH ME...
...IN THE SOUL?
SOULSTRIKER
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MY HEAVENS, I HAVEN'T FELT THIS WARM AND TINGLY IN HALF A CENTURY.
I MAY ACTUALLY BE IN THE MOOD TO *RUT* WITH ONE OF YOU TONIGHT.
NOW KILL HIM AND LET'S DO THE MOST *APPALLING* THINGS TO HIS CORPSE.
KRAK
WHACK
SPLURT
ZZZUUT

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WHUMP
STOMP
SMACK
FWACK
HEALING FACTOR'S OVERLOADED, SHORTING OUT.
CAN'T TAKE MUCH MORE OF THIS.
STILL SO MANY MISTAKES FROM MY PAST TO MAKE UP FOR. SO MANY MORE PEOPLE LEFT TO KILL.
DAMMIT, NO. NOT LIKE THIS.
I'M NOT ABOUT TO DIE HERE TODAY.
RRAAAAARR!
WHACK
OR MAYBE I AM.

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WHEE-OOOOO-WHEE-OOOOOO-WHEE-OOOOO-WHEE-OOOOOO
SIRENS! DAMN COPS ALWAYS RUIN EVERYTHING.
WHICHEVER ONE OF YOU RAT BASTARDS CALLED THE COPS WILL LIVE TO REGRET IT, I CAN ASSURE YOU.
DRUIDS KEEP
BRING LOGAN WITH US. AND WE'LL CONTINUE THIS PARTY IN PRIVATE.
WǑ BÙ MÍNGBAI...
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BELIEVE IT OR NOT, IN ALL MY YEARS, I'VE NEVER BEEN TO THE LOUVRE. NEVER SEEN THE MONA LISA.
NEVER TAKEN A GIRLFRIEND OUT FOR DINNER AND A MOVIE. NEVER HAD A VIDEO RENTAL ACCOUNT. NEVER BEEN CAMPING, JUST FOR THE FUN OF IT.
NEVER DONE A LOT OF THINGS THAT MOST PEOPLE DO EVERY DAY.
THOSE SAME PEOPLE, THOUGH, HAVE PROBABLY NEVER BEEN BEATEN WITHIN AN INCH OF THEIR LIVES BY MYSTICAL KUNG FU WARRIORS AND FORCED TO CRAWL INTO THE SEWER, JUST HOPING BEYOND HOPE THAT THEIR MUTANT POWER KICKS IN AND THEY DON'T DIE.
FOR ME, THAT AIN'T NOTHING TOO UNUSUAL.
I'VE BEEN LAID OUT IN A SEWER ALL BEAT TO HELL MORE TIMES THAN I CARE TO COUNT.
LUCK'S ALWAYS HELD UP IN THE PAST. HERE'S HOPING IT DOES AGAIN.
'CAUSE I'D SURE LIKE TO SEE THAT MONA LISA.

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"FORGET IT, JAKE. IT'S CHINATOWN."
POLICE LINE DO NOT
YEAH, NICE ONE. YOU GONNA QUOTE THAT SAME LINE EVERY TIME WE GET A CALL DOWN HERE?
YOU GOT NO APPRECIATION FOR THE CLASSICS, KID.
NO, WHAT I GOT IS A JOHN DOE WITH A SWORD WHO'S BEEN SHOT SEVERAL TIMES IN THE BACK AND A CITY BLOCK THAT LOOKS LIKE IT'S BEEN HIT WITH A WRECKING BALL.
AND ALSO, I'LL WAGER, A WHOLE BLOCK FULL OF PEOPLE WHO DIDN'T SEE OR HEAR ANYTHING.
I'LL LAY YOU FIVE TO ONE THAT THE BLACK DRAGON WAS BEHIND THIS.
C'MON, KID, THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS THE BLACK DRAGON. YOU'RE CHASING ONE OF THEM WHATCHAMACALLITS ... URBAN LEGENDS. JUST LIKE BIGFOOT OR THE GHOST RIDER.
GIVE IT UP, KID. NOBODY HERE'S GONNA TELL YOU ANYTHING. IT'S CHINATOWN. LET'S GO GET SOME BEEF CHOW FUN.
I KNOW YOU'RE OUT THERE, DAMMIT. AND I PROMISE YOU, I WILL TRACK YOU DOWN...
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"I WILL FIND THE BLACK DRAGON."
KRAK
FIFTY YEARS AGO.
THIS IS IT? THIS IS ALL YOU OFFER IN TRIBUTE, YOU SHRIVELED OLD WORM? YOU DARE TO DISRESPECT THE GREAT BLACK DRAGON?
PLEASE, THAT IS ALL WE HAVE. BUSINESS IS SLOW.
PLEASE TELL THE GREAT LO SHANG CHO THAT WE MOST HUMBLY BEG HIS MERCY.
HA. THE BLACK DRAGON HAS NO MERCY, OLD MAN. NEVER MIND ABOUT THE MONEY THOUGH...
AAAHHH!
WE WILL TAKE *HER* AS PAYMENT INSTEAD.
NO, NOT MY DAUGHTER!
DON'T WORRY, OLD MAN, WE WON'T TAKE ANYTHING SHE WASN'T PLANNING ON GIVING AWAY ANYWAY.

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YA'LL STILL SERVING NOODLES, AIN'T YA?
GO EAT SOMEWHERE ELSE, G.I. YOU COULD GET HURT HERE.
SHOULDN'T POINT THAT PIG-STICKER AT ME, SON, LESS YOU PLAN ON USING IT.
I HOPE SO, 'CAUSE I'M HUNGRY ENOUGH TO EAT THE SOUTH END OF A NORTHBOUND SKUNK.
I AM KWAN GHEE OF THE BLACK DRAGON TONG, EXALTED VANGUARD FOR THE CHINATOWN TRIADS!
AND THIS SWORD WAS FORGED DURING THE HAN DYNASTY BY THE SAINTLY EMPEROR GUAN THE GREAT GOD WHO SUBDUES DEMONS OF THE THREE WORLDS AND WHOSE AWE SPREADS FAR AND MOVES HEAVEN HIMSELF! IT'S BLADE HAS DRUNK ENOUGH BLOOD TO FLOOD ALL OF CHINA FOR A THOUSAND YEARS!
AND THIS HERE PEASHOOTER THAT I WON SHOOTIN' DICE IN POUGHKEEPSIE HAS OPENED UP MORE &$@HOLES THAN CASTOR OIL.
&$@HOLE?
YOU FIGURE ON BEIN' NEXT...

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THANK YOU FOR SAVING MY DAUGHTER, STRANGER. BUT THE SOLDIERS OF THE BLACK DRAGON WILL BE BACK, WITH MORE MEN NEXT TIME.
THEN HOW ABOUT THEM NOODLES. I HATE TO KILL FOLKS ON AN EMPTY STOMACH.
YOU'RE NEW AROUND HERE, AREN'T YOU? JUST PASSING THROUGH OR...
DON'T RECKON I KNOW YET, SWEETHEART. I TELL YA THOUGH, I KINDA LIKE THE SCENERY AROUND HERE.
"MAYBE THERE'S A FUTURE FOR ME IN CHINATOWN."

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AAHH!
WHO... WHERE AM I?
YOU'RE LUCKY TO BE ALIVE. I GUESS THAT MAGIC HEALING FLESH OF YOURS STILL COMES IN HANDY.
JUDGING BY ALL THE SCARS ON YOUR SOUL, I'D SAY YOU'RE STILL GETTING BEAT UP A LOT.
MASTER PO?
WHERE ARE WE?
BENEATH THE CITY.
THIS IS WHERE I LIVE NOW. I'VE BEEN AN OUTCAST FOR FIFTY YEARS, EVER SINCE...WELL, YOU REMEMBER.

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THE BLACK DRAGON AND HER MEN ARE SCOURING THE CITY, LOOKING FOR YOU.
I'LL MAKE IT EASY FOR THEM.
THEN YOU'RE A FOOL, AND I SAVED YOU FOR NOTHING.
YOU DON'T HAVE THE SKILL TO FACE HER WARRIORS.
I'VE HANDLED MYSELF IN PLENTY OF FIGHTS OVER THE YEARS. I THINK I KNOW WHAT I'M DOING.
IS THAT WHAT YOU'D LIKE CHISELED ON YOUR TOMBSTONE THEN, ASSUMING THERE'S ENOUGH OF YOU LEFT TO FILL A GRAVE?
I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THIS.
I WILL TEACH YOU.
IF YOU WISH TO BE TAUGHT, I WILL TEACH YOU HOW TO FIGHT THEM.
WHY NOW? WHEN YOU REFUSED TO TEACH ME BEFORE?
YOU ARE A DIFFERENT MAN THAN YOU WERE FIFTY YEARS AGO, I CAN SEE THAT. AND ALSO I'M TIRED OF LIVING IN THIS DAMN CAVE.
WHAT DO I HAVE TO DO?
SUBMIT YOURSELF TO ME COMPLETELY. FOLLOW MY EVERY COMMAND WITHOUT THOUGHT OR HESITATION.
CAN YOU DO THAT, LOGAN?

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